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S. A. SAMINADA AIER.
Secretary.

The Combaconum Athenaeum.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1871.

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WE hear that the results of the B. A. Examination or rather of the B. A. *ordeal* held in February last are out, or are very near being published. Of Of the 68 Candidates that appeared for the Examination 34 have been passed, of whom 13 are from the Presidency College and 12 from her successful rival the College of this Station, the best student of the latter taking the 2nd place in the List. We congratulate our College Principal on the steadily progressing success of the institution committed to his care. For reasons that may be well gathered from what follows, the number of failures was greater than usual. But it is not difficult to account for this rather discouraging result. A really more respectable result might have been expected if the Examination had been conducted with a better regulated set of question papers than were given, with papers—that is—shewing a better estimate on the part of the Examiners of what is pretty well known, viz., the rapid flight of time and the slowness, as compared with it, of the human faculties. If the Examiners had taken a fair measure of what is *possible* to do in a given time, we doubt not, more encouraging results would have been produced, and even 2 or 3 First Class B. A.'s might have been looked for. We shall be pardoned we hope, if we express what is our real sentiment that hitherto we never saw such difficult and long papers, (whose very sight would unnerve the anxious Candidate) given at an Examination. Our space cannot permit us to enter into the details of each paper, nor do we mean that all are liable to the objection of being too difficult and unreasonably long. Our remarks mostly apply to the prose paper in English, and to the papers on Algebra and General English. With regard to the first we have to say that no Candidate however well-prepared and however quick at writing could finish it in the given time of 3 hours To write abstracts of four or five of the largest Essays of Bacon: of one in Friends in Council on War (as if to serve as ballast to the first) to give the views of Bacon on 2 or 3 subjects, to write an Essay on a given topic and to answer a host of other questions and all this in 3 hours require a *magnanimity*, so to speak, a strength of body even, and a preternatural quickness of hand as well as a command of language which very *few* can be well expected to bring to the B. A. Examination. Nay we even question if a person thoroughly qualified by his knowledge to answer the paper could go from one end of it to the other unless it were possible to make use of the power of steam to propel his fingers. We are sorry that the Examiner's calculation of time was erroneous. By all means we are for a searching test; but a searching test is not demanding the accomplishment of what are impossibilities with our limited powers. We hope that in future a more deliberate estimate of time and the capabilities of students will be taken.

The Algebra paper has also been complained of bitterly. It was certainly a paper the like of which in point of difficulty had not been set previously and which required a facility and a discernment which we cannot expect from the average sort of Students. Still we cannot think it so entirely unreasonable and certainly it could not have led to the "slaughter" which has taken place. It can bear no comparison with the prose paper or the General English paper. This latter we think contained rather a large proportion of unhappy questions. It is not reasonable to expect a Student to guess successfully the authorship of detached extracts containing no strong marks of individuality of style, or of subject, a feat which difficult for any man must be simply impossible for a Student who has been reading for 9 years or so from the time he began his A B C. This period is barely sufficient for making one's self master of one's text books. Then where is the time for that large range of extra reading, not only of

modern authors, but of early writers whose works are not accessible every where and if procurable are not edited in their original forms, where is the time we say for that extensive reading which the question we mentioned requires. We should not complain of it if it formed a fair portion of the whole paper; but its value as the thing stood would bear a considerable ratio to the whole marks assigned for the paper. We are not against demanding extra reading. Collateral knowledge, it is just to expect. But let the shewing of *such* knowledge be insisted upon as will be in the main useful, as is likely to be sought for by an incipient graduate, as is accessible to young men with a taste for reading and as is necessary to answer the literary wants of the Candidate at the time he aspires to the degree. Let an Essay be required to be written, let analysis of a given extract be required to be made, let new passages be given for paraphrase, let ill-written passages be given for correction or let wrongly reasoned out fragments from standard authors be placed for logical exposition; let anything like this be done, but let not the task of an antiquarian be imposed on the Candidate without the means which the antiquarian uses for his researches.

Against the other papers we have not much to object, they are more or less near the proper mark.

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A HINDU GOD MULCTED.

NOTHING will show more vividly and more emphatically the steady and rapid improvement in the administration of justice in this country, as also the spirit of impartiality with which, our Magistrates administer the law, than the late proceedings of our Police Inspector and our Town Sub-Magistrate against one of our Gods. To acquaint our Readers with these proceedings, we must first tell them that our Gods, not alive to the altered circumstances they are placed in, and not knowing that the times are gone when they were above the law, continue to play heedlessly those games of gaiety in which they indulged in the lawless days of the past. They have regular festivals still at stated periods of the year and delight in grand pageants, one of which is the car festival, as it is called. Our Gods have, each of them a car in which He drives at the gracious permission of the Municipal authorities during this time of the year. A week ago Kumbhaswarar of this town had His turn. Antiquated in His views as in His tastes he forgot He was amenable to the law, or at least to the law as interpreted by our Magistrates. While he was leisurely and listlessly moving, though in His own grounds, our Police Inspector caught Him in the act of violating the law, for no private party has the privilege, even by sufferance of obstructing the Queen's high way. But He was not taken to the Police Station, for his *status* and *locus standi* made it imprudent to march him thither. Under that Section of the Police Code which punishes the obstruction of the public thoroughfare, a charge was preferred against the God, and the Magistrate punished Him for His frivolity and for His incommoding the public; He was mulcted in 10 Rupees. We have never as yet heard of such a just sentence and such an ingenious extension of the letter of the law. Our legislators perhaps did not contemplate the inclusion of our Gods under their subjects, notwithstanding the all-grasping spirit of British dominion. But we must all know that the bye-stander sees more of a game than the player himself. So our Inspectors and Magistrates have discovered that since the Hindus are conquered; their Gods are conquered also; ergo the same laws must govern both. If the Government have promised toleration let the Gods keep to their temples, but let them not ignorantly give an edge to the zeal and acumen of our Magistrates and Inspectors by tresspasing the law. Moreover this is not the first time that such a practical lesson has been taught to our Gods. It was but a year ago that the co-mate of Kumbhaswarar was punished for venturing out in His car to the discomfort of the public; and he has wisely resolved to give up His cumbrous vehicle. How happy is he for it!

The foregoing brilliant event in the annals of Indian administration suggests one reflection peculiarly gratifying to the free-thinker. We cannot say how gratified we are to think that though our Government will indulge us in the exercise of our religion, such vigorous legal proceedings as we have mentioned, will drive our Gods into a meek resignatiion of their sacred posts and will effect for the Hindus what Missionaries have not been able yet to do,—will mitigate the gross superstition of our nation. Long live these Police pastors and Magisterial Missionaries!!

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THE budget, as expected, was announced on the 9th instant. We are not at present much concerned with the past. All-important is the future to us. The cycle of deficit years however does not seem to have run out its course. Ignoring what he calls expenses Extraordinary, Sir Richard Temple is able to shew us a surplus. But we cannot go with him there. Our view of the matter is more simple and straightforward. Ordinary or Extraordinary, both go to the debtor's side, and must be met with from the Revenues of the country; and he is the prudent Finance Minister who by an economical expenditure of the public money, is prepared for an emergency—we do not mean of course a war of the magnitude of the late Franco-Prussian drama—without running the country into debt. Now to the future, the most satisfactory business is the reduction in the rate of Income-Tax from $3\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 per cent from the beginning of April, and exemption from taxation of all incomes below Rs. 750. The sooner this odious tax is done away with altogether the better. It is so ill adapted to the people of this country that the practical difficulties in the way of fair assessment are really insuperable. No revenue officer entrusted with the work, has hitherto been able to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of his conscience. It may be said that men must suffer who will not take the trouble of keeping proper accounts of their incomes and expenditure and will not make an honest statement of their finances when called upon to do so. But it is the height of folly to attempt to improve the habits and morals o

a people by saddling them with heavy taxes.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Combaconum Athenæum.

Your Madura Correspondent on the Decentralization Scheme, which appeared in your issues of the 4th and 11th February ably points out the defects in the various Departments now proposed to be made over to the Local Governments and the several items of saving that could be effected in these departments. The writer with a laudable patriotism points out the existing abuses in the various departments, which greatly interfere with the welfare of his country and suggests retrenchments in several departments, by which the executive government of the Presidency could be carried on most successfully, without devising new methods of taxation. Unfortunately his zeal carried him a little out of himself and led him to make suggestions not altogether sound. Though we are quite certain that his suggestions will not be carried out by our wise Government, the mischief which some of his remarks are likely to work upon the public mind induces us to point out the fallacy of his reasonings. That our remarks may be well understood we first give one of his suggestions regarding the Educational Department and then endeavour to show its unsoundness.

"It must be remembered that the number of Officers and their scale of salaries were fixed at a time when Education in this Presidency was in its embryo state. Very few were then able, and even if possessed of ability were willing to undertake the arduous task of teaching and supervision. The Englishmen who were then selected would not easily come over to India under the disadvantages, as they imagined, of living in a hot climate, in a distant land and in the midst of a people rude and illiterate, unless they had the inducement of large and handsome salaries. But these difficulties have now been overcome, and the children of the soil, I mean the natives themselves, have risen and are able to be, and in fact are at the head of Educational Institutions, which formerly could be filled by Englishmen alone. We therefore decry the present high scale of salaries assigned to the appointments in the Educational Department. Salaries in the abstract are to be fixed on various considerations :—

1st. The difficulty of the position.

2nd. The temptations that [they] have to resist in discharg[ing their] duties.

3rd. The comforts which they have to command in keeping up their position.

4th. The expenses they have to undergo in acquiring the requisite qualifications.

5th. The time spent in acquiring them.

6th. The number of persons available for an appointment.

7th. The necessity there is for retaining them by handsome payments.'

Our correspondent cries against high salaries for Educational Officers first on the ground of the market being cheap as regards teachers. Why should this be said of teachers alone? Is there a scarcity of candidates for other offices? Is not the candidate market cheaper for other employments? When a post of Rupees 15 per mensem falls vacant in the Judicial, Revenue or any other department what a rush there is of candidates elbowing one another in their attempt to usher themselves into the august presence of the Head of the Office. We shall take any other department and examine the claims of its officers to high emoluments with those of the Educational Officers. We take the Registration Department. Is there a scarcity of candidates for Registrarships? Men of finished education and judicial and worldly experience could be had at a moment's notice for any small income in this department. Of these you could get as many as you want not to mention the enormous number of less accomplished candidates. Any of these candidates will be able to do the work well enough if he only possessed common sense. As regards the Educational Department the candidates are comparatively very few nor the selection so easy for the nature of the work does not allow of a random selection. All the candidates that offer themselves for the post of a teacher won't be able to fill it with success.

Our correspondent lays down certain standard for fixing salaries. We shall grant it to be correct.

The first of the various considerations with reference to which your correspondent fixes the salaries of officers in general, is "the difficulty of the position?" On this point he says "Teaching is an arduous task but not more so than many of the other professions." He charitably concedes that teaching is an arduous task. But from his statement it follows: that *many* of the professions in the world are likewise arduous. From the small reduction which he recommends of a lac of Rupees in the Registration Department for the *whole* Presidency for one whole year as will be seen by a reference to his able article he seems to think that any greater reduction in the Registration fees, will go hard with the Registrars and Sub-Registrars who perform the arduous task of entering the documents on their table in the proper volume and in the proper page. Our own humble opinion is that there is hardly any work for the brain in doing this business and a methodical man can dispose of it in two hours even in Collectorate Stations. Still the income of a Sub-Registrar is considerably higher than that of the Head-Mster for a Zilla School who has to strain his mental faculties for at least five hours a day in construing passages from standard authors and solving knotty problems. who has to give even his private hours to do the duties of his profession in preparing the lessons of the day and correcting examination papers and who bears the responsibility of the progress of the whole institution on his shoulders. But the work of the Sub-Registrar is not one-tenth of the Head-Master's work for whom he liberally recommends a salary of Rupees 150 per mensem and the whole of it! We should tremble for Educational Officers if our correspondent should have the power of carrying out his reforms, which God in His mercy will never favour. We believe the only duties to which the School Masters' work can be compared, are those of a Distric Moonsiff or of a Principal Sudder Ameen.

The second consideration in fixing the salaries of offices is, "the temptations that Officers have to resist in discharging their duties." No doubt, Officers cannot be honest if they are pinched by want. The Government ought to remove this want by giving them a competence. The Government can never fully satisfy the cupidity of its Officers by raising their salaries. No amount of salary can successfully remove temptations. A Sub-Magistrate on Rupees 60 per mensem can make if he so wills it, Rupees 6000 in a single murder case. No amount of increase, which you may give h

and which must be very small by the side of the tempting sum of Rs 6000, at a single stroke, can withhold a Government Officer from his purpose. No amount of salary can be an equivalent to what a Government Officer could make by corruption. Moreover our love of money increases with our riches. But a Sub-Registrar has not to struggle with many temptations. The only temptation a Sub-Registrar has to contend against, is the chance he has of conniving at false personation and of charging a higher rate of fees than what is sanctioned by the Government. For playing tricks in these respects is not very easy unless the people are very ignorant. *Public opinion* is the only check against corruption and to *public opinion* therefore the Government ought to attach much importance. The School-master therefore does not deserve less salary than others because he is free from these temptations.

The third consideration is "the comforts which they have to command in keeping up their position." He who does more work ought to command more comforts. Here the claims of the Schoolmaster are not inferior to those of any other Government Officer. Here again the Sub-Registrar has the least right to indulge in comforts for he has the least trouble in doing his duty. If our correspondent refers to the dignity of the appointment why, the dignity of the post one holds, depends upon the dignity of the work he does. Here again the School master has the advantage.

The fourth consideration is the expense they have to undergo in acquiring the requisite qualifications, and the fifth is "the time spent in acquiring them." The School-master has to spend as much as the Sub-Registrar in educating himself though the education of the latter is not a necessary qualification for his profession. The Sub-Registrar has to spend the long period of one full month in receiving his professional training. Has not the Schoolmaster to receive his training at the Normal School, for a much longer period.

The sixth point, we have disposed of at the very beginning of our review. The seventh and the last consideration is "the necessity for retaining them by handsome payments." There is a greater necessity for retaining an able experienced School master by handsome payments, than there is in ...se of a Sub-Registrar. The ...s we need not report, as for instance the difficulty of the profession that of selection and so on. A glance at the pension rules for the Educational Department, will show that the framers of them thought that such a necessity existed in the Educational Department. A great English philosopher speaks of the profession as follows. "It is necessary for the progression of sciences that Readers be of the most able and sufficient men; as those which are ordained for generating and propagating of sciences, and not for transitory use. This cannot be except their condition and endowment be such as will content the ablest man to appropriate his whole labour and continue his whole age in that function and attendance; and therefore must have a proportion answerable to that mediocrity or competency of advancement, which may be expected from a profession or the practice of a profession.

Instead of cutting down the salaries of a hardworking class of people, a great reduction may be made in the Registration Department and the fees may be reduced to one-sixth of what it is, for a man on a salary of Rupees 50 per mensem will very willingly do the light work of registering documents, which as much as a hardworking Sub-Magistrate gets, in the place of a man Rs. 300 a month as the present salary of the Sub-Registrar is in big Stations. A similar comparison may be instituted between the Educational Department and any other Department of Government.

To the Editor of the Combaconum Athenæum.

SIR,—I beg you will give insertion in your paper to the following which I trust will not be unacceptable to your readers or to yourself, inasmuch as my design is to guard the public against taking for granted the truth of certain aspersions that were thrown in your issue of the 25th ultimo against an amiable gentleman of unexceptionable character. In trying to do this under the light of the facts which have dawned on me and which indeed none can blame you for not inquiring into, I expect your hearty approbation.

You lay before the public the fact that our Small Cause Court Judge held his Court on the Maha Sivarathri day and that he "prosecuted certain parties for not appearing *punctually*." And what is more ungenerous and misleading, you insinuate that it was done in the spirit often to be observed in some bold, impulsive Civilian Crusaders against Hinduism that is, in the spiriit of "utter contempt for the religious feelings of our countrymen. But I am sure Sir you would retract these statements, if you knew the peculiar circumstances amidst which the gentleman was placed. Undesignedly, you have placed him in a disagreeable position the falsity of which unknown to yourself, must be more unknown to the public, The circumstances of the case were as follow .—

Some time before the Sivarathry day, a suit of considerable intricacy came up for hearing on the P. S. A. side of the Court, in which each party had cited a host of witnesses. Considering the inconvenience both the parties and witnesses would be put to, if the case should be adjourned, he made up his mind to dispose of it in the regular manner. The trial lasted 20 P. S. A. days besides encroaching on the Small Cause side work. He was consequently obliged to postpone other suits original and appeal not less than 20 which came on in their order before the close of the trial in question. He took up the case on the Sivarathry fast day as a large majority of the witnesses remaining to be examined were Mahommedans. In these circumstances, imagine my dear Mr, Editor, the feelings of a gentleman at the absence of the witnesses, when called out at the usual hour. And what is then more natural than a prosecution of the defaulters? Are not Courts held on Mohorrum days though they are holidays sanctioned by Government? If witnesses should absent themselves on such days, are they not to be prosecuted? It was these circumstances which led to the ill-judged violation of the holiday of Sivarathry and to the prosecution you complain of. In justice to the gentleman, I must observe that there was not the least spark of intolerance in it. One of the paramount principles of the Church to which he belongs, one which forms its glory, is the principle of unrestrained toleration. In the spirit of the slighted orthodox Hindu, you think, and naturally enough, that the Anglican Church has more esteem with him than Hinduism, for he closed his Court on Ash-Wednesday; but you must know that he did this with reluctance, and because he had deprived his officials of one holiday already. I admit that "he is not indifferent to religion in the abstract; but his respect for *religion* is not one that makes Ash-Wednesday more sacred than Sivarathry.

I am,

Yours most obediently,

CRETON.

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